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PATENT

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February 17, 2004

Quinton J. Halo

SIGNATURE

02/17/2004

DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Gilbert M. Aust et al.

Serial No. : 09/707,445
(Reissue of U.S. Patent
No. 5,540,706, issued
July 30, 1996)

Filing Date : November 6, 2000

For : SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

Group Art Unit : 3731

Examiner : Michael H. Thaler

Attorney Docket No. : A31-2047RE

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

TRANSMITTAL

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated February 3, 2004, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment filed on January 23, 2004 (copy attached) is compliant.

The above-identified application is a reissue application. 37 C.F.R. §1.121(i) states that amendments in reissue applications must be made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173, which states that an amendment in a reissue application must include the entire text of each claim being changed and each claim being added. Accordingly, a complete listing of all the claims is not required. Thus, the

Amendment filed on January 23, 2004 complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(i) and 37 C.F.R. §1.173.

In view of the foregoing, an early action with respect to the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James L. Tarolli", written over a horizontal line.

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